

Introduced by Senator Poochigian

March 18, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17—Relative to highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 17, as introduced, Poochigian. Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Phelps Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 168 in the City of Clovis in Fresno County as the Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Phelps Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Phelps of the Fresno
2 County Sheriff's Department was on killed May 19, 2002, while
3 in the performance of his duty to the citizens he was sworn to
4 protect; and
5 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Phelps had served with the Fresno
6 County Sheriff's Department in the early 1980's as a sheriff's
7 bailiff assigned to the Fresno County Superior Court, and after
8 later working as a locomotive engineer with the Burlington
9 Northern Santa Fe Railway, he returned to the Fresno County
10 Sheriff's Department as a Level I Reserve Deputy Sheriff. In order
11 to spend more time with his family and to fulfill a lifelong dream,
12 Deputy Phelps was sworn in as a deputy sheriff on October 30,
13 2000 and, after completing a tour serving in the courts, Deputy

1 Phelps was assigned to the Field Training Program where he
2 successfully completed his training; and

3 WHEREAS, During his second week of patrol, Deputy Sheriff
4 Phelps stopped a suspicious vehicle and was gunned down by the
5 driver, a 21 year-old Clovis man who had been involved in a
6 shooting incident in the City of Clovis a short time before. Deputy
7 Sheriff Phelps was transported to Clovis District Hospital for
8 treatment but his wounds proved fatal. The shooter escaped with
9 Deputy Sheriff Phelps' sidearm and patrol vehicle. After a six day
10 search and pursuit involving hundreds of officers from numerous
11 agencies, the gunman was shot and killed; and

12 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Phelps is survived by his loving
13 wife Dana, his daughter Nicole and son Kenny, and parents, Brice
14 and Mary Phelps of Clovis; and

15 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to memorialize Deputy Sheriff
16 Phelps' sacrifice by naming a portion of State Highway Route 168
17 in his honor, and to remember the sacrifices made by California
18 peace officers across the state who risk their lives daily to protect
19 citizens' lives; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby dedicates the
22 portion of State Highway Route 168 from the Temperance Avenue
23 interchange to Shepherd Avenue in the City of Clovis to the
24 memory of Deputy Sheriff Phelps; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the described section of State Highway Route
26 168 shall be known as the 'Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Phelps
27 Memorial Highway'; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested to
29 determine the cost of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent
30 with the signing requirements for the state highway system,
31 showing these special designations, and, upon receiving donations
32 from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those signs; and
33 be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
35 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
36 author for appropriate distribution.

